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## Those Who Wait

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*College of DuPage*

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# THOSE WHO WAIT

Barbara Armbruster

She waits  
for the cake to turn  
golden brown,  
pull away from the sides  
of the pan,  
spring back lightly  
from the touch  
of her finger.

Somewhere  
someone's sister  
waits  
for the cold, clear fluid  
to drip-  
like a slow-sliding tear  
down the cheek of a child-  
from the visible heart  
impaled on a pole.

To another place,  
a school girl waits  
with a transparent-windowed  
envelope  
held against her chest,  
eyes closed,  
like a magician  
hoping to change  
one thing into another.

Up north,  
squatting on the thick  
soles of his boots  
beside the neat round  
hole in the ice,  
a man waits  
for the salmon of wisdom  
to send a tugging signal  
from the underworld.